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An
Essay
on

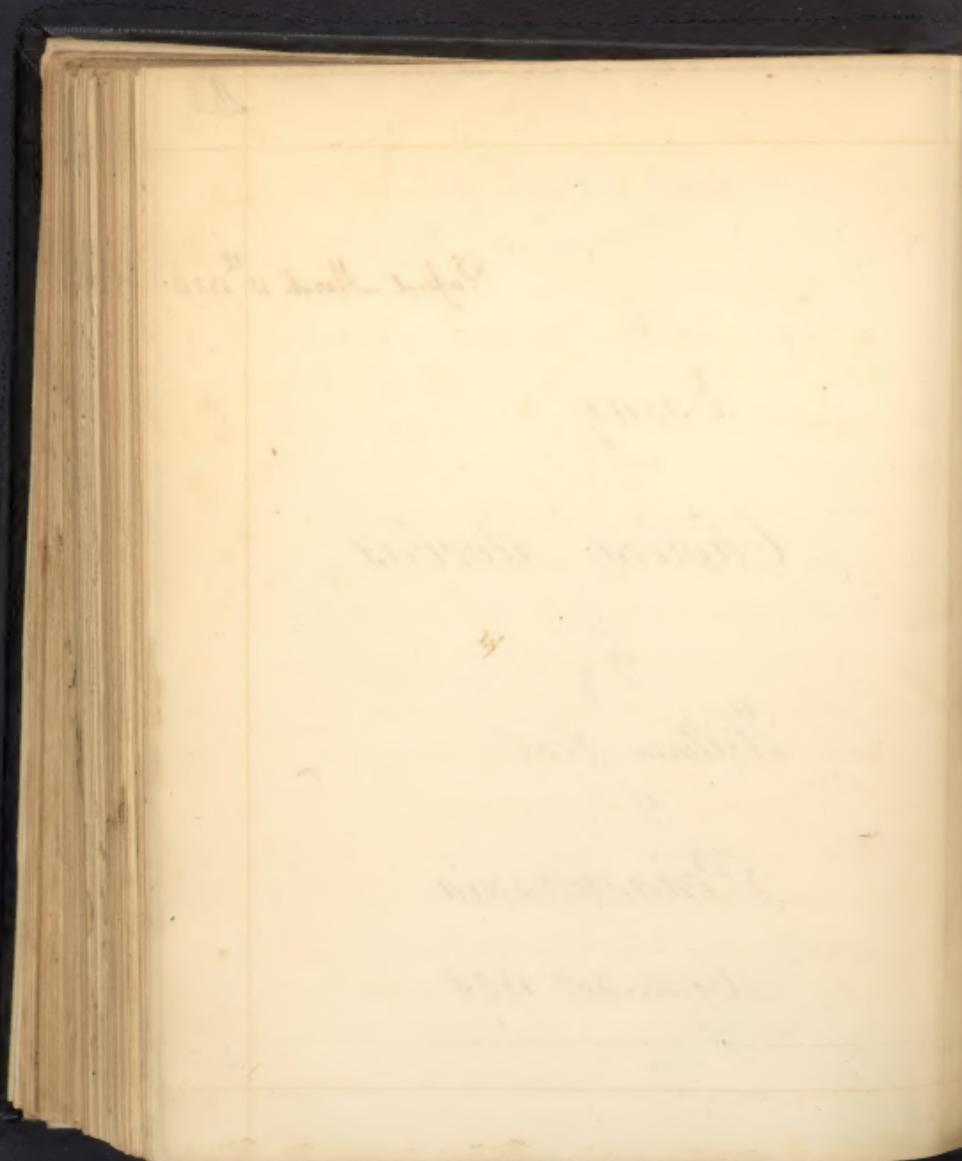
Cholera Morbus

by

William Seal
of

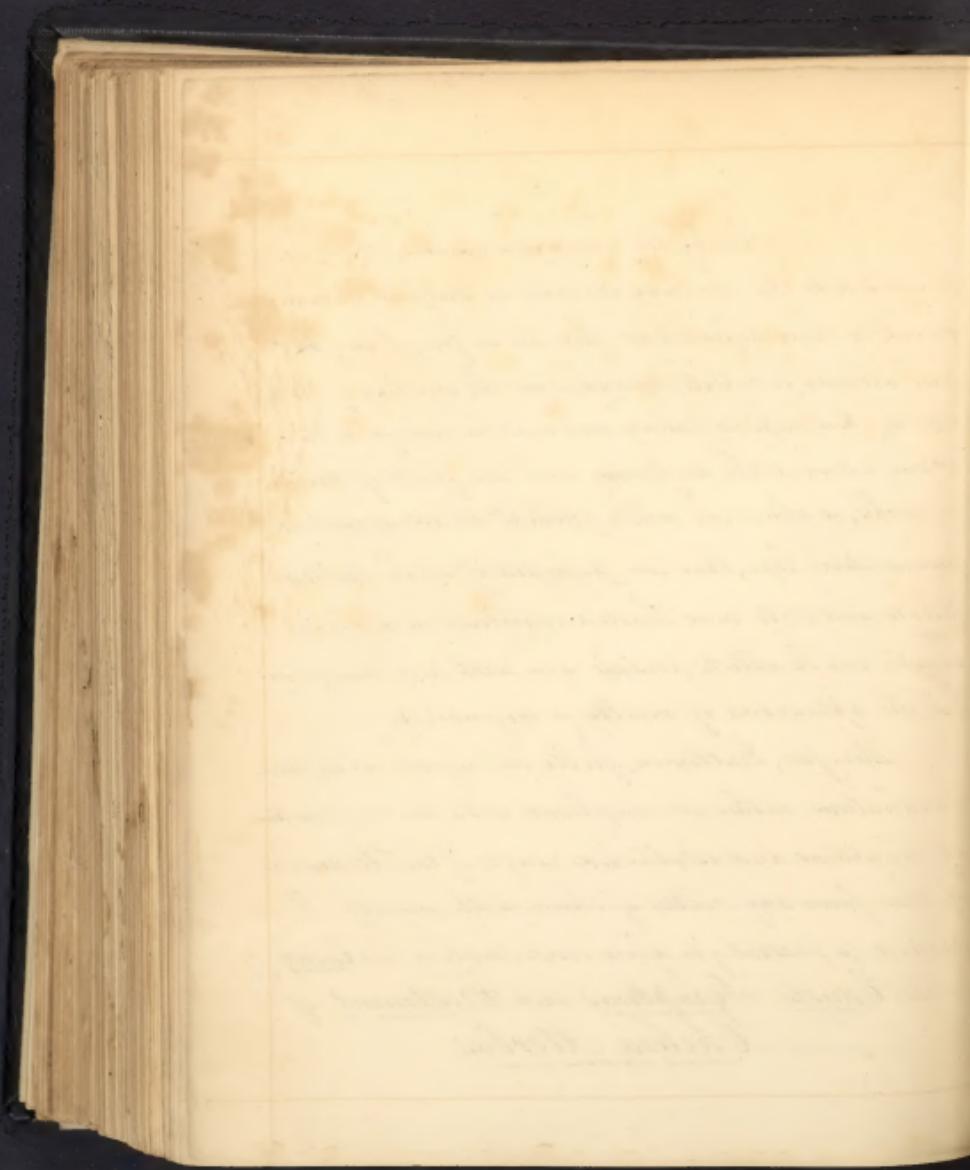
Pennsylvania

October 30th 1825



Among the numerous diseases, which are presented to the medical students, as subjects of inaugural or other disertations, there are so few, if any, but have already so repeatedly undergone the scrutiny of those, who by their superior talents and exertions have from time to time adorned the profession with the fruits of their researches, as almost, at once, to preclude the extravagant and presumptuous hope, that one professed of such limited talents and still more limited experience as myself, should ever be able to present you with anything wearing the appearance of novelty or originality.

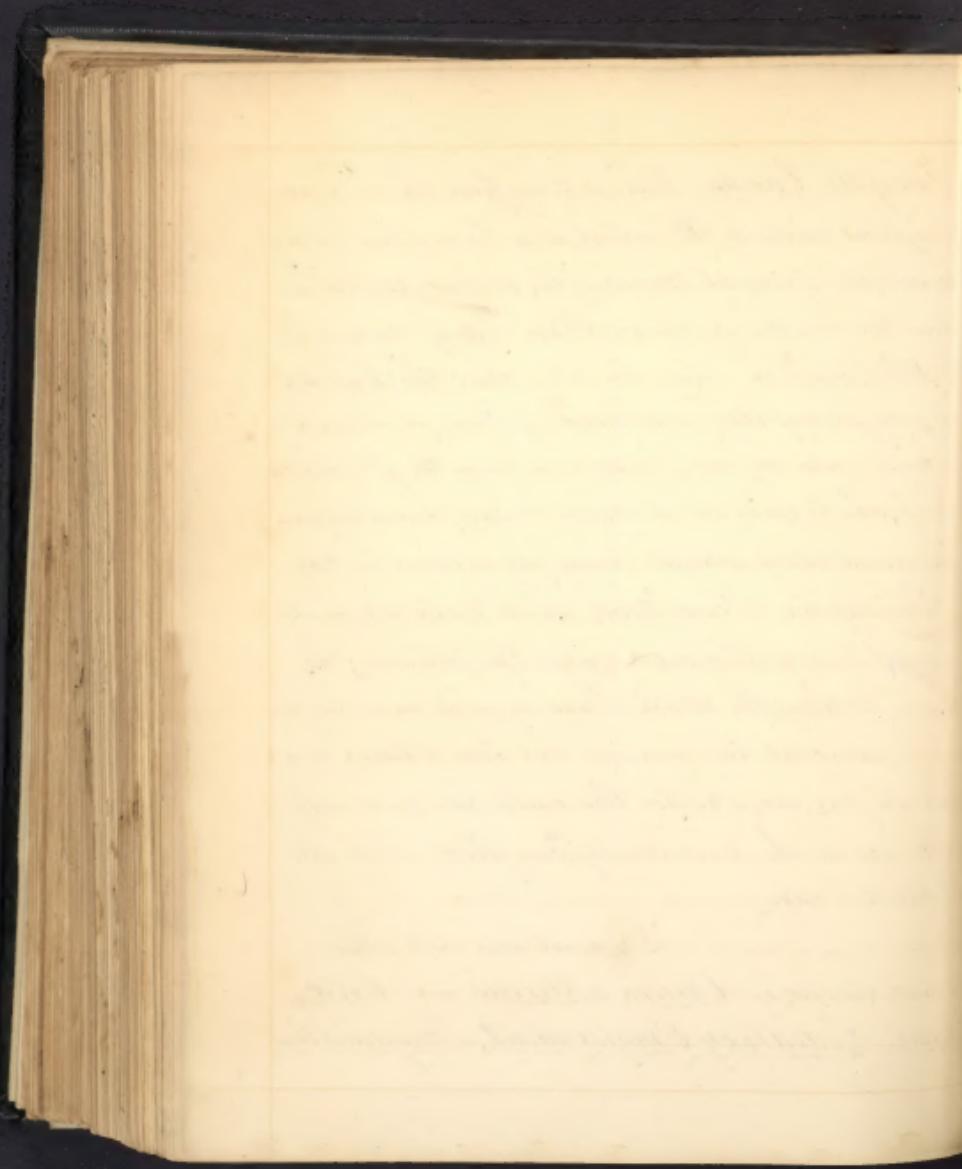
Therefore, Gentlemen, fully impressed with these considerations, rather in compliance with the constitutional requisitions and established usages of this University than from any matter of choice with myself I propose to present for your consideration an Essay on the Causes, Symptoms and Treatment of Cholera Morbus



First of the Causes. I have, judging from the authority of different writers on the subject, and having been myself the subject of several attacks of the disease, as well as from the limited experience I have had of treating it in others, confirm ⁱⁿ the belief that the Causes are very imperfectly understood; if I may be allowed to judge from my own person and from the first attack I had, which could not be traced to any cause whatever.

The second attack occurred during my residence in the Philadelphia Alm-House, which could not be attributed to any other cause unless the following; the evening preceding the attack I was engaged in endeavouring to resuscitate two men, who had been destroyed in a well by foul air, whether this could have any influence in the production of ^{the} complaint I am not prepared to say.

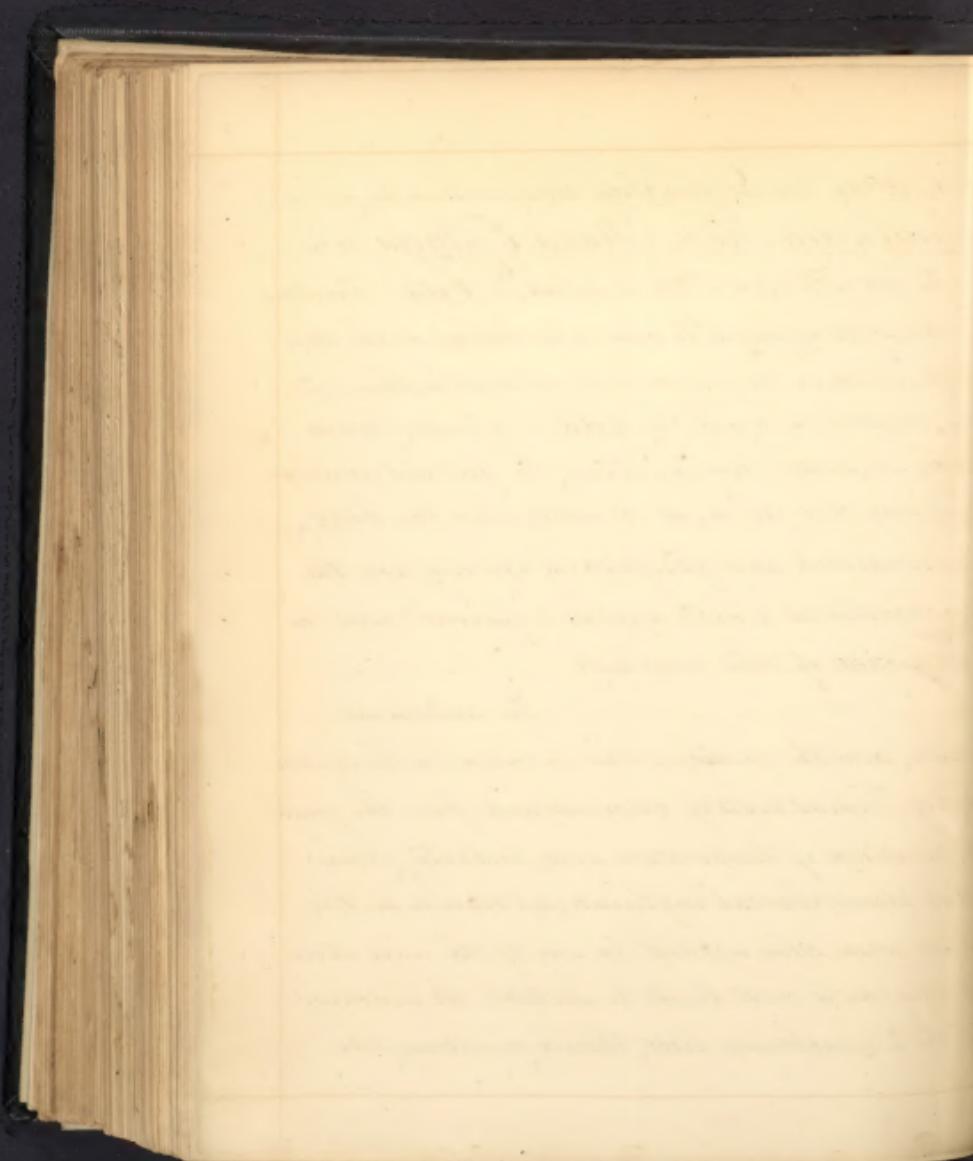
The general and most certain causes, however, of Cholera Mortis are Cold, Heat, Sedentary Employment, Irregularities.



in Eating and Drinking, more particularly, of
Indigestible Food; Marsh Effluvia &c &c.

The first of these, which is to be noticed, is Cold. The action of this agent appears to be more dependent upon the state of the system at the period of its application, than upon the manner, in which the Cold is applied; though lying on damp ground, getting the feet wet, or drinking any cold fluid, as ice water, when the body is over-heated and fatigued by exercise, are the circumstances, which appear to favour most the production of this complaint.

The autumnal season, from the predisposition induced in the system by the previous heats of summer, and from the great variations of temperature and, probably, from some atmospherical influence, appears to be the season, when cold applied in any of the ways above mentioned, is most liable to distract the functions of the stomach and liver, thereby rendering the



scutious, more profuse in quantity and, perhaps, altered in quality.

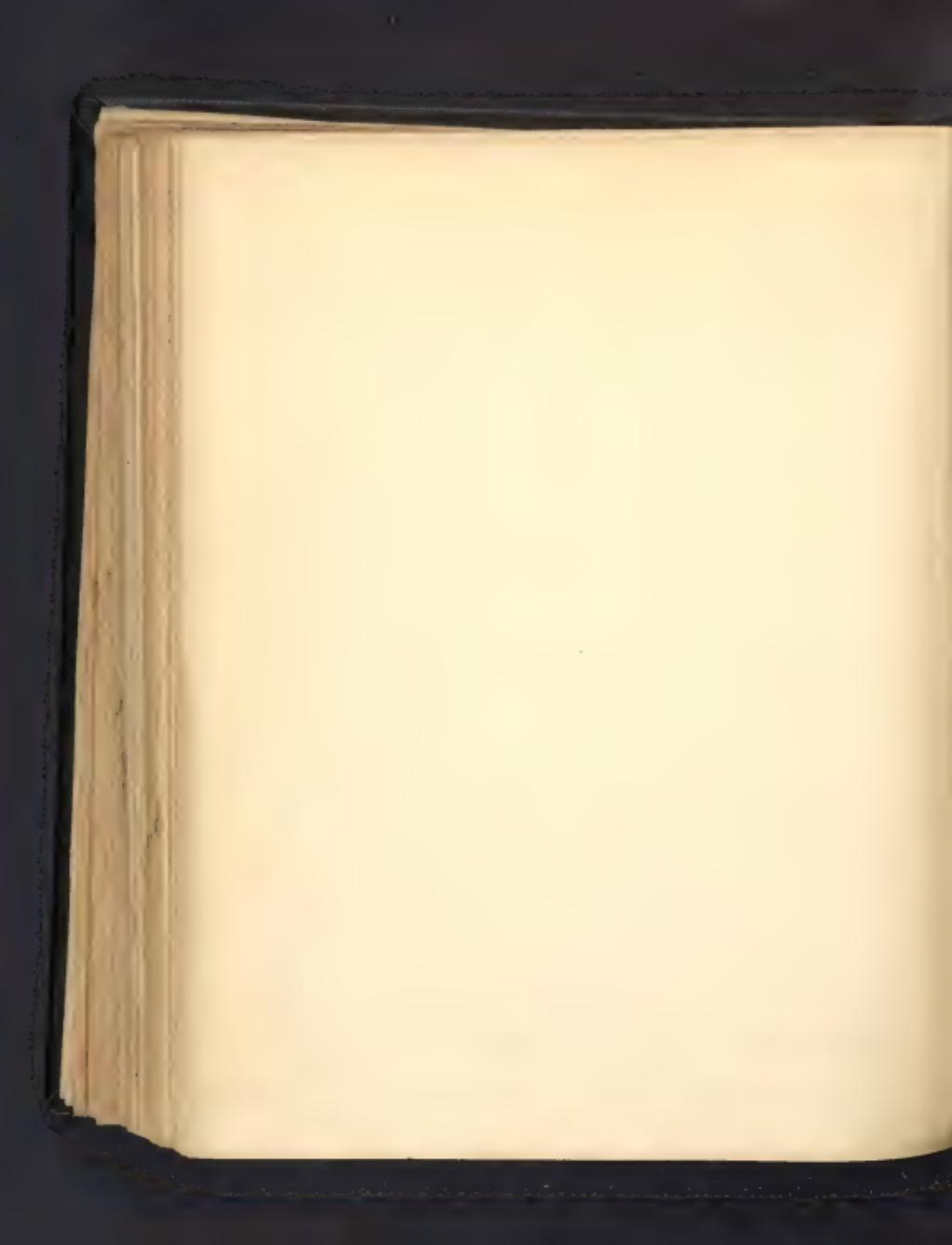
The next cause, we are to consider, is Sun; this agent is most likely to excite Cholera Mortis when applied in quick succession after cold, as by removing from a cold into a hot climate, in which case the powers of digestion are very much impaired, and in a short time the hepatic system becomes strangled, we then have an increased secretion of bile, marked by certain peculiarities of quality, the nature of which, as yet, positive, remain undecided.

The calorific rays of the sun operate a peculiar influence upon the stomach and liver, by which this latter organ is stimulated to an augmented action, producing those profuse evacuations of bilious matter, which constitute the most striking feature in this affection.

Sedentary Employments. Of these, perhaps it will be sufficient to remark, that anything which

one to irritate and weaken the stomach and digestive
system, will exercise an important influence
in securing the location of those poisons, which
reduce the digestor. It is a fact, familiar to
every one, that the system, under weakened form
and state, is readily affected by agents, which in
a state of healthful vigour would not resist.
Hence, we find when the digestive action has been
abated, the poison is rendered more susceptible
to any morbid impression, which may approach
it in intensity near, & its vicinity.

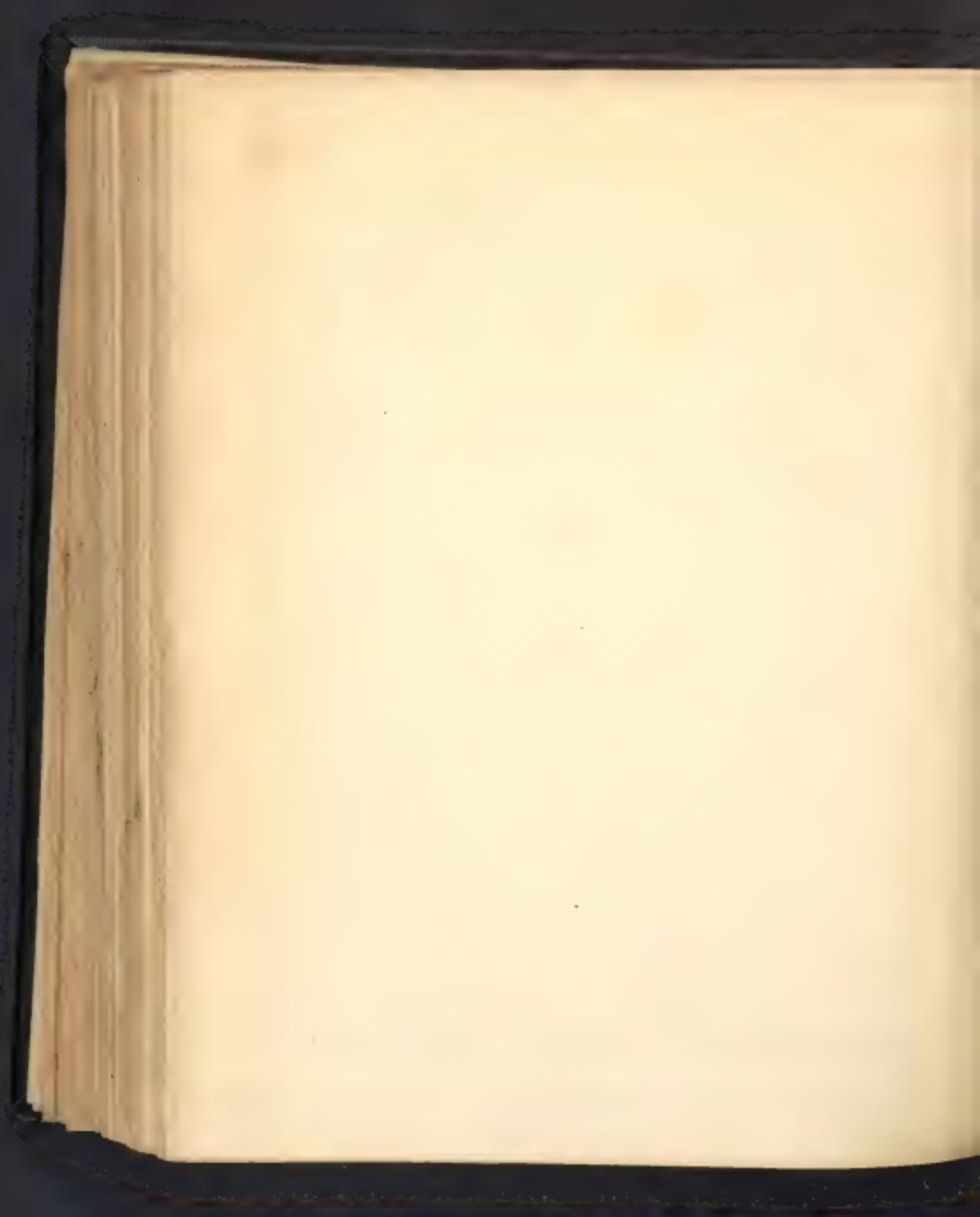
do have
various said that procurarietas in Catina
and Drinking and water Cocora
Corbitt. I can do this in a several
manner, independent of any such mode, either
can we rest in the vicinity of matter into
which the Cocora, & soon be insensible
& void in mind, because the Cocora



intestines and liver to an inordinate action, followed a giddiness in the mind, and a no-wise secretion from the latter organ. In those cases, however, in which insensibilities of diet were accounted the complaint, it will, at first, be necessary to observe, that some of the preceding caused of debilitating the system, have created a disposition to the formation of bad tempers.

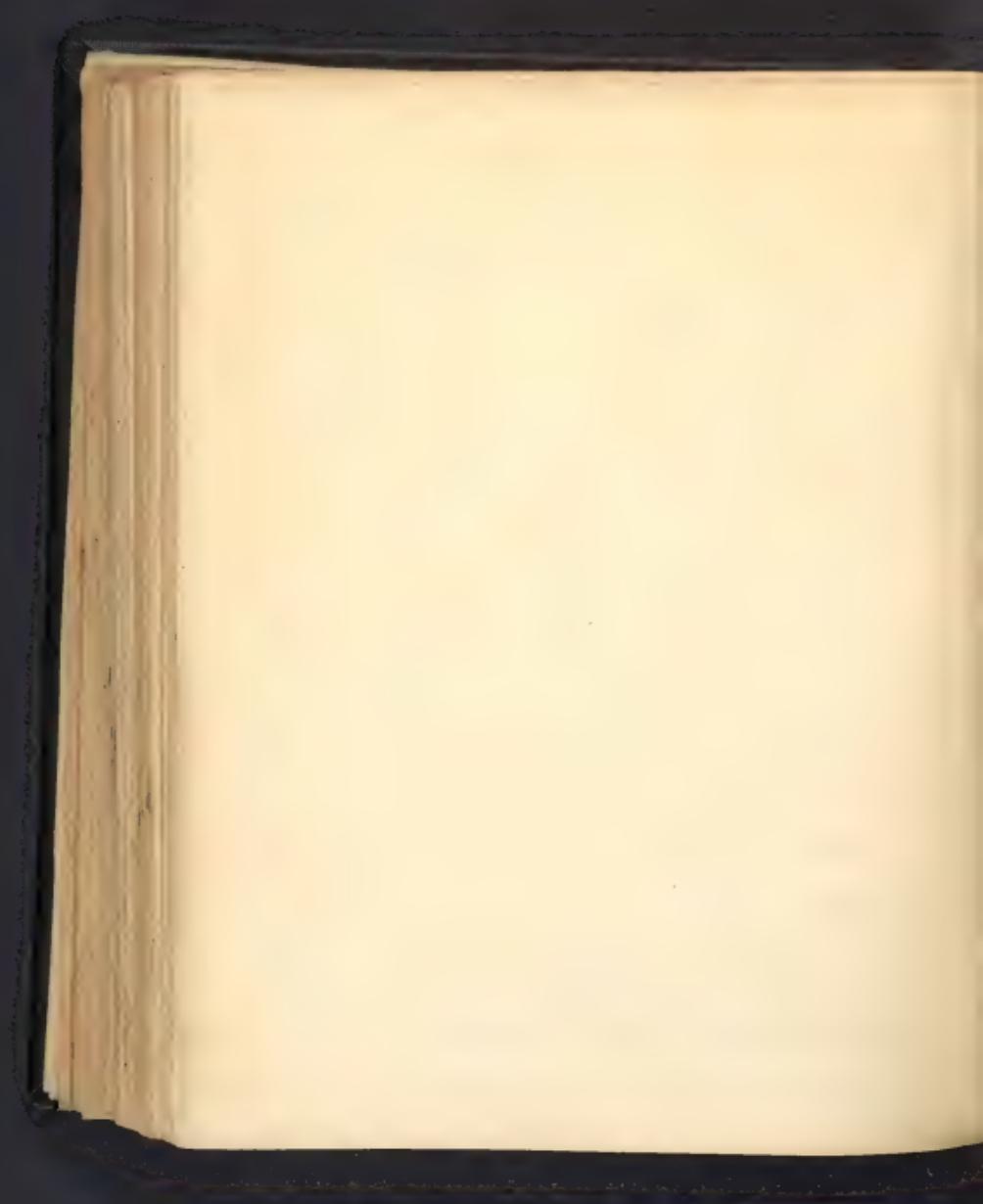
In constituting
therefore, the diet of the patient, it is to be observed,
that we must, always, be guided by the circum-
stances under which it is given; or we will
not be, more in error under certain conditions
than we will be, under others; and at another time
and place, still more in error and misguidance
will occur; as similar diseases, sometimes, are
occasionally occurring in a state of health.

LITTLE C. LITTLE The language may
be considered as most vulgar now. The



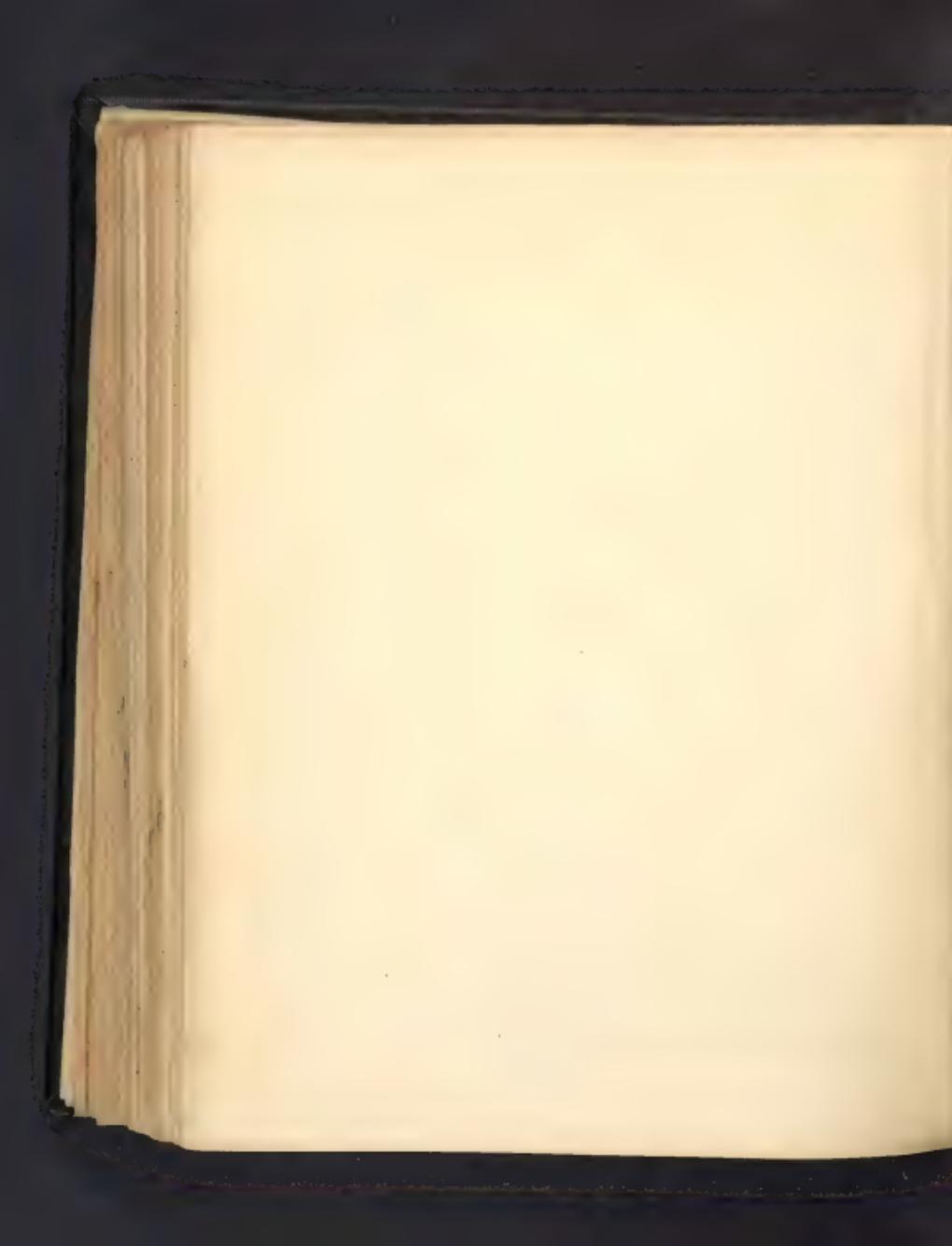
distemper, now under consideration, which has been
most happily compared; by the distinguished Proff-
essor of the Practice of Physic in this University, to
a bilious fever turned upon the bowels. In
proof of which, he has stated "that they make their
appearance at the same season of the year and are
produced by the same causes and are cured by
nearly the same remedies". The nature of this subdi-
sease, or its peculiar action on the system, is well
believe, as yet scarcely ascertained and a univer-
salmatical will not, receive a due analy-
sis, preferring rather to leave it to those, whose
littera and industry will mark them to do more
service. I do venture and incite a few, etc.

Caring, however, now for, we will commence
in giving a view of the relative changes, which
the stomach undergoes in becoming so attenuated
a state of health, and a few remarks in consequence
here, show the causes above enumerated may act



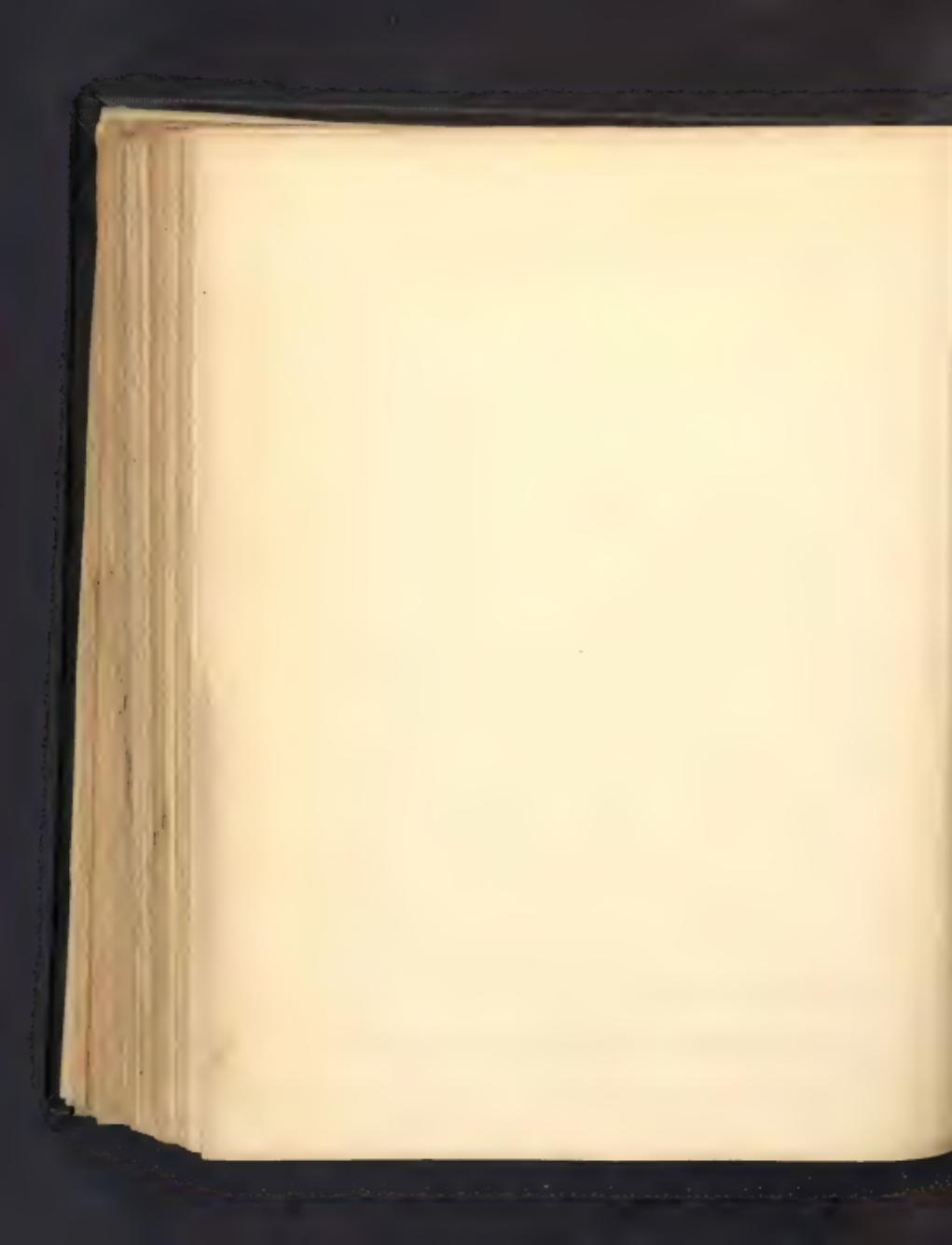
in producing Cholera Morbus.

In this purpose we commence by observing the changes, which the food undergoes from its first entering that organ, until the excretion of the faeces, and from hæcœde, which may be said to be of three kinds, namely, Chætation, Chylification, and, what may be termed, feculent generation. The first part of the process of digestion is performed in the Stomach by means of the gastric juice, and the second or chylification in the duodenum and small intestines, the biliary and pancreatic fluids, mixing in proportional quantities with the chyme, immediately after its issuing from the Stomach, contribute, in mode hitherto but imperfectly understood, to the separation and recombination, in new proportions, of its principles, so colouring and other disengaging the elements of the sanguineous, lymphatic fluid, serving to elaborate and carry forward the feculent parts, & the



edge intallated, with the entire fringe of division
demolished.

The several vessels are varied up
to, and, under action, as we have already mentioned,
the standard vessel and its various partners,
would concern subdivisions within them, which have
been denominated epithelia, and it is by the removal
of this epithelialic mass, that the vessels of
fusile vessels and the, smaller their divisions
are adjusted. They are introduced into the mouth,
with these, if the stimulant, the action of the car-
diate glands, and it is, by the same, impeded and
acted upon, that the heart, or rather the
pump of the stomach, are affected. But, as
the liver and stomach are out of the reach of
direct action, they must be stimulated
into action by an indirect impulse, communicated
by the epithelia, to the stomach. In this case, the
latter organ, in all probability, receives from the



digestive or diastolic food; that kind of animation
inflamed, it and, by sympathetic communication to
the other organs, sufficient to civilization, by
which, the bile or humor may be provided at
the proper time, and in the necessary quantity,
to mix with the engine, as it descends into the
stomachum, where the while thus mixed is retained
in its turn to make those peculiar actions in
the course of the intestinal canal, which are resul-
ted to complete the entire process of civilization
and perfect digestion and excretion.

Then

it must be evident, that ~~any~~ ^{any} of the causes above
enumerated, at Cold Diet, Proximities in
Eating and Drinking, Marsh Effluvia &c by
exciting an unnatural irritation in the Stomach
and alimentary canal, which ~~irritation~~ will, se-
condarily, be communicated to the hepatic apparatus,
producing there an undue excitement without



to the effects which would be distinctly called
Epitrochitis. With these remarks I
conclude, at least I have hitherto, in the subject of
the disease of Epitrochitis. Nor but now proceed in
the next place, to give some account of the signs
and symptoms of it.

This disease is, for the most part,
characterized by some tenderness of the Bladder, with
more or less pain and distension, succeeded by frequent
and frequent evacuations of urine matter, of small
and scummed. It is also, generally attended with
congestion of the rectum, insensible pain, increased
secretion of sweat, hot and red skin, increased
fusible, when the disease is in its initial stage or
long, after continuing it a long time, so that it is
sick, considerable increase between the rectum and
urinary tract, and a violent and
swelling from the beginning to end of the bladder.

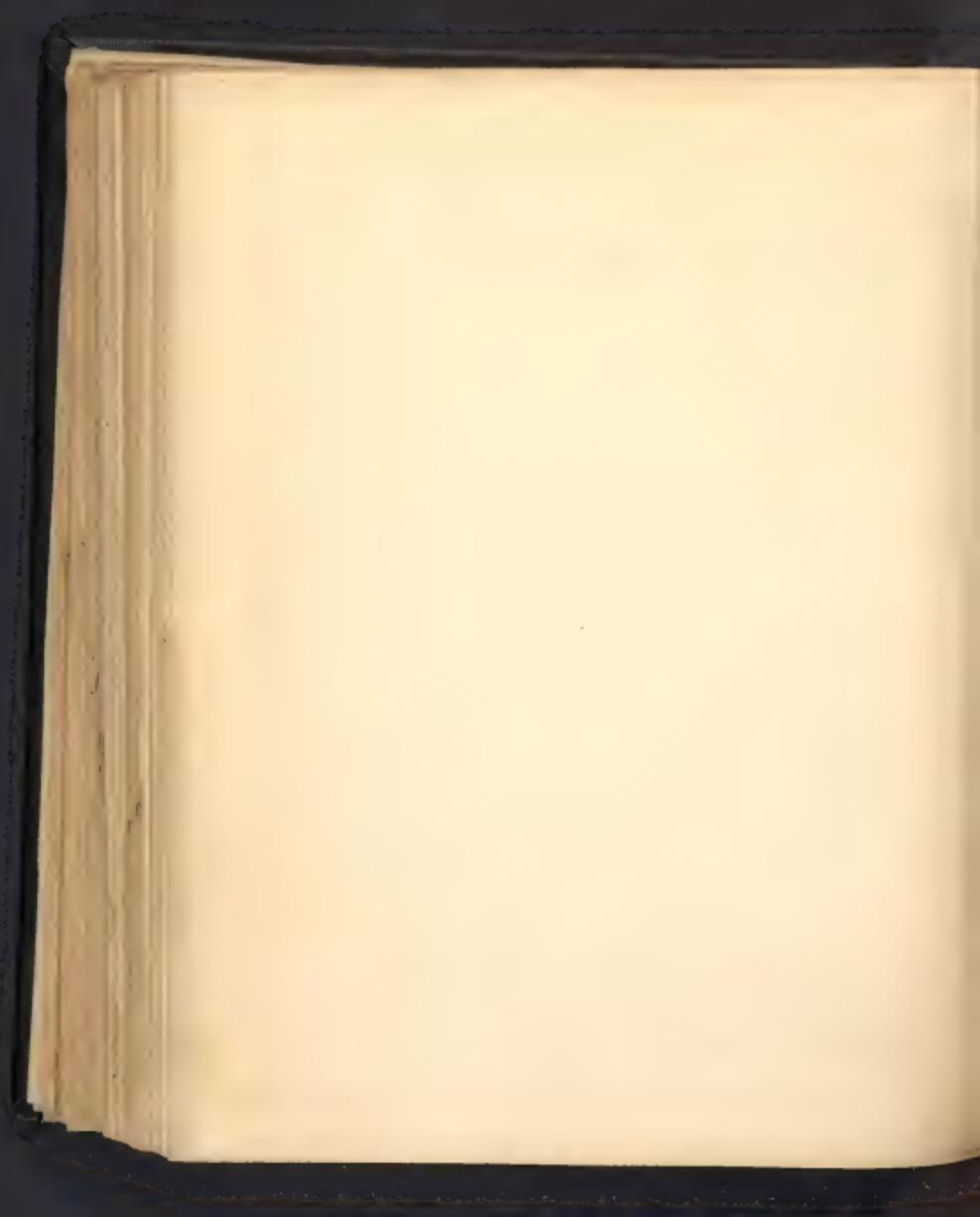


becomes still more so, shortened with local irritation
of smooth, cold, paroxysmal heat and both
continence, great excitability, & fitfulness, a short
and violent convulsion. In the hands the fingers
the muscles, the abdomen and extremities become
affected with cramps and other, perhaps affections
not originated by nervous, & hot vice, great cardiac
distress, sinking pulse, &c. This, if not quickly
eradicated, terminates in the loss of the intellect,
an event, which we apprehend by some action
of the spirit, & body. You can, it sometimes
comes, in a much shorter time.

These are the symptoms,
which generally distinguish the violent convulsive
convulsions. But, as a man, like you, are about
sister, first these will take on a moderate
degree, & let us suppose in the hands, & in the
abdomen or legs, there is a violent throbbing
or jerking motion, & the fingers & hands



were it a jolt out of the association, unaccustomed as we were to it in him. I retired to bed, as well as usual, and enjoyed an undisturbed repose until ten O'clock the next morning, when I awoke with a distension & so & that, with the symptoms just mentioned, arose and in the course of an hour had a number of'Brien's evacuations from the rectum, which were succeeded by vomiting. Fifteen minutes, in a short time, was seized with cramps in my feet, legs, hands and fingers, and soon became completely anaesthetized, so it will be able to tell from the bed and the few words recharged mortality. I made, indeed, a slight attack, but in the space of two hours had a full recovery without any sort of review, which physician I believe was also entertained in those, who were in attendance. Other varieties we also to be met with in this disease but much, however, it is necessary to detail.



Having now described the Cause and Symptoms
of Catarrhal Hysteria, we will in the next place
examine those measures, which are proper to be im-
ployed in its cure.

The Treatment of this complaint is very sim-
plified into two, which it may be necessary to employ
one at first, which will most immediately arrest a
relapse.

The first institution consists in the complete
removal of the intestinal matter, situated in the bowels;
a point which we carry to their maximum which
will accelerate the evolution of the complaint; the
second is to employ and the one, which we
make the best calculated to get rid of it, ^{is} gaseous
enemas in the nose; by this means, the stomach is
relieved and the system before affected, we recall
and we have a more manageable form of the disease
presented to us. Gaseous enemas are intolerable.



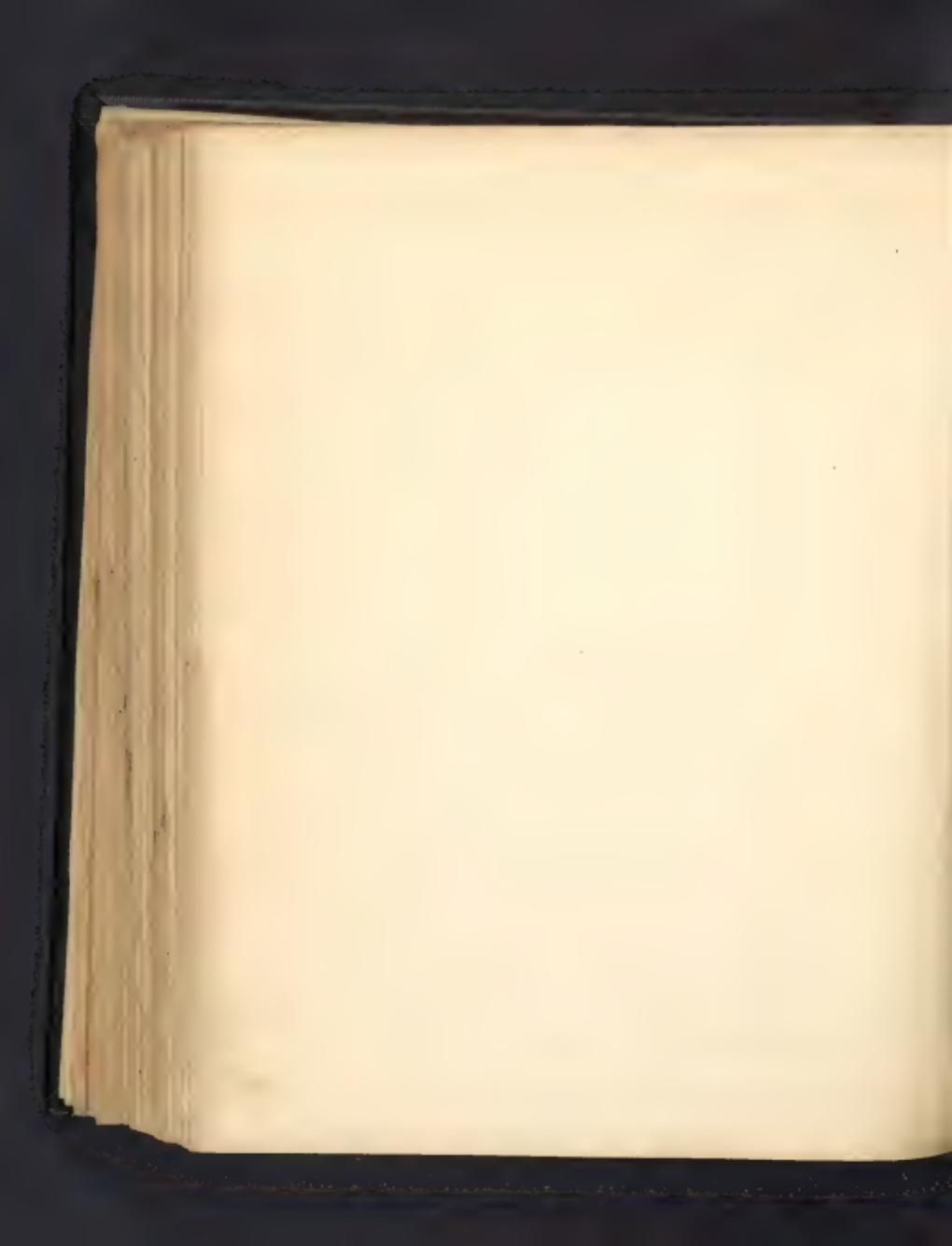
and the same, all are to be understood
as & doth relate to your illumination. when
you are satisfied w^t the service, having that done
you are to goe to the signature page, the next incitation
will direct you to sign the confession of faith or say so
much more as the following reads will suffice
you to have sufficient, when so done & the said
will, a deduction will be made, when paid such
as are paid me by you, or the summe of sixtysix
pounds twelve shillings white silver, and
the said, since a deduction is all due, will
be paid the summe above mentioned at
Colonel, so much paid in the said will
will be paid you, in case you have nothing
otherwise to pay me or in case I doth
not receive, or the signature which
are above written is not done, nothing to
be paid, there is no summe to be paid
told you in the beginning of this will.



with pieces of flannel or blankets and a little thin, wet
sheet over which as soft as can be worn; the chair, or the
more sheltered part of the house found according to occasion.

I should like measures such as are uniting the people
of one nation, and uniting the communities and cities
of the same, as large cities over the continent could
most well be resolved in. I desire the cities, in
the language, which occurs at the voice of the citizens,
should agree on the other measures, which seem
monitored more easily, within themselves, will be
published, so soon, official as the Worms, Lille,
Antwerp, &c. &c., with some details, on what
is still after the Paris month.

Of the remedy
I speak, with the more confidence, at having now ex-
perienced its medicinal effects, than trusting to
these respecting our share to an external animal
to send the power of life to bear and white, even
as to itself, had almost left me.



at least weekly, however, from his limited experience
that such is a combination as I had imagined.
From his campaign, in the following year, he says, that
Cyrus was yet "in no way thoroughly formed into a will,
or even in some measure; and this was now a
consequence to him unshaken. In addition to this
combination it, or other division which, perh
aps, he would have become at another, he inserted
an alternative check in the system, because, of which
he intended the substitutive effect, it was a good
method to delineate magistracy & government
with the existing law classes.

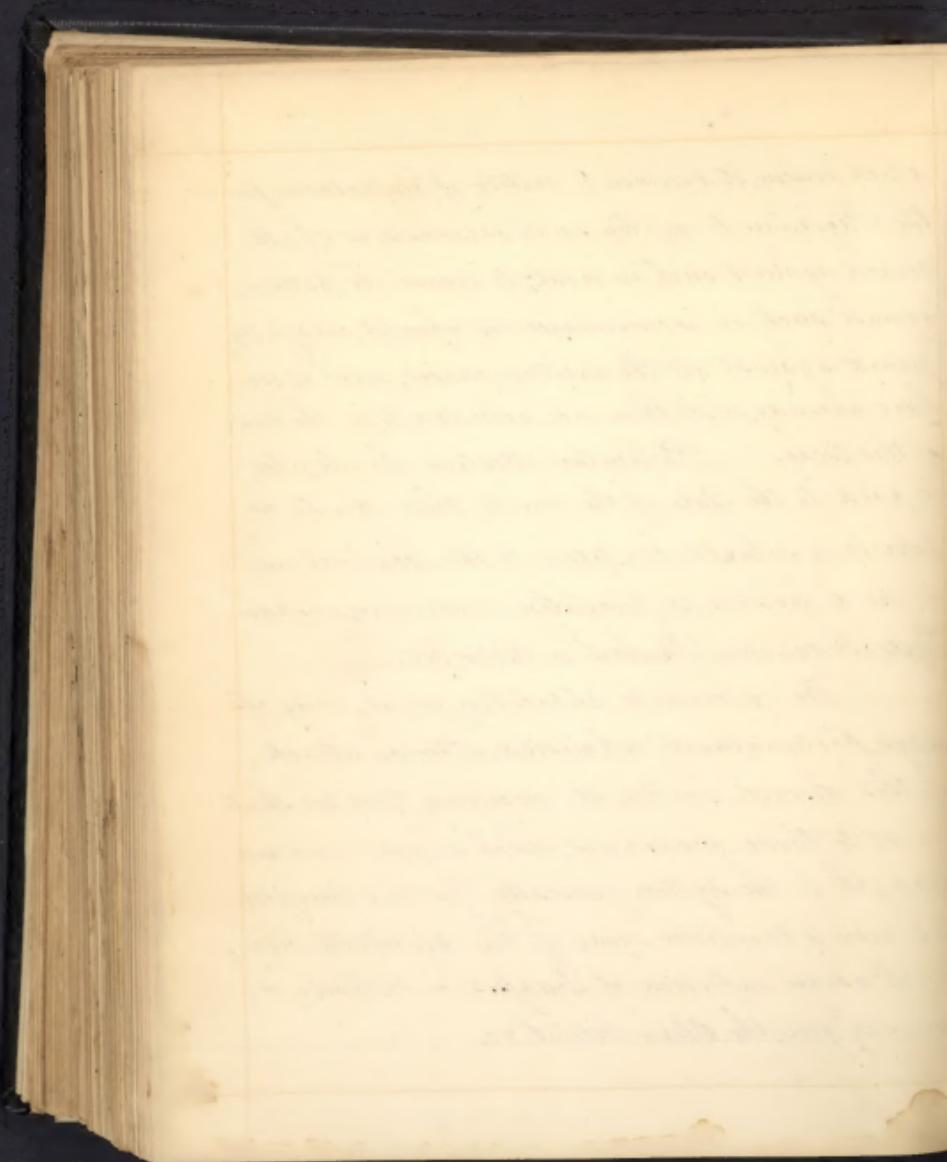
morning

The committee we have mentioned have determined to
accompany the process, & are armed. The next indication
is, as we have before said it, to proceed to the
city. Let us mean moreover to give
a conference or discussion. That fact, however, we
have once decided in ascertaining an object, for



which season, it becomes a matter of importance for the Physician to employ such measures, as shall guard against such an event; to secure the patient, against such an inconvenience, we should, carefully, guard against all the existing causes, such as we have already, more than once, alluded to, in the course of this Essay. Particular attention should, also, be paid to the state of the bowels, these should be kept in a soluble condition by the occasional use of mild laxative or purgative medicines, as often salty Magnesia, Phalact or Castor oil.

The system and alimentary canal, being always proternaturally exhausted, after an attack of this disease, renders it necessary, that we should resort to those medicines, which impart tone and strength to the system generally, for this purpose, we may administer some of the vegetable Bitters, such, as an infusion of Quassia or Colombo, or we may give, the Elixir Vitriol &c.



Should the predisposition to a recurrence still exist, it is quite probable, that it is kept up by some derangement of the Liver itself; in which case, nothing will be found so effectual, as a course of Mercury, urged to salivation.

The clothing of persons of this description is a matter of no small importance and should by no means be overlooked in the prophylactic treatment of this disease. The wearing of flannel next to the skin has been found an excellent preventive in all the bowel affections, and not less so in Cholera Morbus.

